



**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

Ambulance Safety Subcommittee

DATE AND TIME: March 6, 2003 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: National Emergency Training Center
Room J-103
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

**MEMBER AGENCY
REPRESENTATION:** **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
Mr. John Brasko
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Jeff Dyar
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Bill Troup
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Department of Agriculture
No Representation

Federal Communications Commission
No Representation

Department of Defense (DOD)
No Representation

General Services Administration (GSA)
No Representation

**Department of Health and Human Services
(DHHS)**

Ms. Nancy Romano

Chairperson

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
(NIOSH)

Department of Interior

No Representation

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Ms. Susan McHenry

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
(NHTSA)

Department of Veteran Affairs

No Representation

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

No Representation

Department of Labor

No Representation

**OTHER FEDERAL
ATTENDEES:**

Department of Commerce (DOC)

No Representation

Department of Justice (DOJ)

No Representation

**OTHER ATTENDEES
PRIVATE SECTOR:**

American Ambulance Association (AAA)

No Representation

American Integrated Training Systems (AITS)

No Representation

**American Society for Testing and Materials
(ASTM)**

Mr. Pete Chambers

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
No Representation

Medical Transportation Insurance (MTI)
No Representation

NATEK Incorporated, EMS Specialist
Ms. Sandy McMinn

Ambulance Safety Subcommittee Chairperson Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME:

Ms. Romano welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

The Chairperson requested that we forgo introductions at this meeting since it was the same group as in the previous subcommittee meeting.

III. DIRECTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AMBULANCE SAFETY:

Ms. Nancy Romano, Chairperson, began the discussion with the direction of the subcommittee.

Mr. Pete Chambers (ASTM) commented that there needs to be an ambulance construction standard to create a science for a baseline.

Mr. Jeff Dyar (USFA) inquired as to whether the group had discussed the scope of what was being researched and what outcomes the group would like to achieve.

Ms. Romano indicated that the scope would include the whole issue on ambulance safety. The members discussed if they could concentrate on ambulance safety as a whole or break it down into parts.

Mr. Dyar asked what outcomes the group would like to achieve.

Ms. Susan McHenry (NHTSA) replied the committee should address the following items:

- 1) Get a better handle on the picture of ambulance safety challenges.
- 2) Determine what our agencies are doing.
- 3) How can we synergize our efforts to create improvements?
- 4) Define ambulance safety.
- 5) Provide a safer environment for EMS workers and the public.
- 6) Examine driver/crew behavior:
 - Driving.
 - Lifting.
 - Going into hazardous situations.

Mr. Dyar stated that we need to define ambulance safety.

Mr. Chambers discussed Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). He indicated that we need to gather all the statistics and pull the data together to paint the picture.

Mr. Dyar commented that National surveys are not effective or feasible, but that there are ways to get data inexpensively.

Ms. McHenry reported that the report in the CDC-MMWR from Feb 28, 2003 is a good place to start to get information. We may want to invite someone to speak to the subcommittee to discuss further.

(Action Item) Ms. McHenry asked that everyone review the article to come up with issues and bring back agency feedback. The subcommittee should also review articles from the Detroit News, think of other data sources and priorities to focus on. NATEK personnel will send out email addresses of all subcommittee members.

Mr. Mike Wieter, Oklahoma State University, International Fire Service Training Association, joined the meeting by conference call. He discussed the following items:

- The Detroit news article caught people's attention.
- The limited data that is available is poor.
- Need for a safety training discussion to build policy to include behavior training and skill level.
- There is a need to meld policies across the nation to change behavior.
- A well-known university could gather the data in a legitimate nationwide study.

A question was asked if the NEMSIS could collect ambulance personnel injury data. Ms. McHenry reported that it could be collected under the following data points:

- Response delays
- Arriving on the scene
- Leaving the scene

The work is still in progress, see www.nemsis.org. There will be another opportunity for public comments on the data points. Email the project leader for more information.

Ms. Sandy McMinn (NATEK) will compile a list of subcommittee members and what they bring to the subcommittee, i.e., jobs, emails and websites. **(Action item)** This will help paint the picture as the subcommittee defines its objectives and approach.

IV. NEW AMBULANCE SAFETY ISSUES:

This topic was not addressed as we discussed the direction of the committee for the entire meeting.

V. UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:

This topic was not addressed as we discussed the direction of the committee for the entire meeting.

VI. NATIONAL EMS DATA REPORTING:

This topic was not addressed as we discussed the direction of the committee for the entire meeting.

VII. NEXT MEETING:

June 5, 2003, 2:30 p.m., Emmitsburg, Maryland

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments, Ms. McHenry made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.